



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Commission

DATE: May 21, 2009

FR: Legislation Committee

W. I.: 1131

RE: Committee Recommendations

The Legislation Committee met on May 8 and referred six items to the Commission.

1. **AB 254 (Jeffries)**

This bill would require that authorized emergency vehicles responding to “urgent” or “emergency” calls be granted toll free access on any vehicular crossing or toll highway.

Committee Recommendation: Oppose

2. **AB 670 (Berryhill), AB 1500 (Lieu) & SB 535 (Yee).**

- AB 670 (Berryhill) would allow single-occupant vehicle access to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to veterans or active duty members of the United States Armed Forces.
- AB 1500 (Lieu) would extend the sunset date for hybrid and electric vehicles to 2016.
- SB 535 (Yee) would indefinitely authorize plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles access into HOV lanes regardless of the number of occupants.

Committee Recommendation: Oppose

3. **SB 205 (Hancock)**

This bill authorizes a countywide transportation planning agency to seek voter approval (by a simple majority of voters) to impose a vehicle registration fee of up to \$10 on each registered motor vehicle in that county.

Committee Recommendation: Support

4. **SB 406 (De Saulnier)**

This bill would authorize metropolitan planning organizations, associations of government and county transportation commissions to impose a vehicle registration surcharge of up to \$2 on vehicles registered within their jurisdiction in order to fund the development and implementation of a regional blueprint plan — i.e., a sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy — as required by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg), Statutes of 2008.

Committee Recommendation: Support and seek amendments to place greater emphasis on how state agencies can more directly link regional plans to statewide plans and to the criteria for statewide funding.

5. ACA 9 (Huffman)

This constitutional amendment would change the voter-approval requirement for certain bonded indebtedness and special taxes by cities, counties, a city and county, or special district from two-thirds to 55 percent.

Committee Recommendation: Support and seek amendments to ensure that regional measures are covered under this proposal.

6. AB 266 (Carter)

This bill would require the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to develop, every five years, an assessment of the unfunded costs of programmed state transportation projects and projects for which there are federal earmarks, and an assessment of the available funding and unmet transportation needs statewide. To develop this assessment, the CTC would consult with Caltrans, regional transportation planning agencies, the California Transit Association, the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The CTC would submit its first report to the Legislature by March 1, 2011.

Committee Recommendation: Support